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The Spectator

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Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

Applications for Class of 2023 up 34 percent, breaking last year's record

by Katherine O'Malley '19
Contributing Writer

According to the College's Office of Admissions, Hamilton received a record 8,338 applications for the Class of 2023, up 34 percent from last year's then-record total of 6,240.

The acceptance rate for the Class of 2022, 21 percent, was also the lowest in the College's history at the time. This year, that number projects to be even lower.

The Office of Admissions regards this year's application statistics as a success.

"This is a team win, to be sure, and we hope everyone in our community takes pride in this historic admission year," said Vice President for Enrollment Management Monica Inzer.

This year's applicant pool is not only larger, but also more diverse. 24 percent of applicants are international students, while 37 percent of U.S. applicants identified as students of color. 57 percent are women and 43 percent are men. Finally, the applicant pool covers 49 states and 121 countries.

Likely explanations for the consistent surge in applications in recent years revolve around a few factors. First, the College removed some barriers in the application submission process, including waiving the application fee for first-generation college students and allowing applicants to self-report their standardized testing scores. The admissions team believes this helped persuade more students who were considering applying to submit their application. Still, those who might have taken advantage of the relatively greater ease in applying via the Common Application accounted for less than half of this year's increase in applications.

Other contributing factors include the Office of Admissions use of Slate, an admissions database that allows the team to better track and communicate with prospective students. Using this tool, the Office of Admissions say they enhanced their international communication plan to make it more targeted, conducting more strategic outreach and travel.

Finally, this was the second year the Office partnered with QuestBridge, a non-profit program that raises student awareness of educational and scholarship opportunities among U.S. colleges and universities.

In addition to the sustained efforts of the admissions team, Hamilton's expanded financial aid options, informative tour guides and interns, new faculty hires, and new facilities and resources like the Johnson Center for Health and Wellness were also key in attracting a higher number of applicants.

Throughout the next six weeks, the admissions team will begin a committee selection process in which they identify the students who will be invited to join the Class of 2023. Despite the greater number of applications to process, Inzer says the selection process will remain the same.

"No one in admissions chose this job because we like rejecting students," she said. "Every candidate — even in a year with a 34 percent increase in applications — will get our thoughtful and serious consideration."

With an increase in applications comes an increase in rejections, an aspect of the job that the admissions team reiterate they not take lightly. Naturally, though, the acceptance rate is expected to decrease — likely into the teens after last year's 21 percent mark.

Describing expectations for demographic representation in the Class of 2023, Inzer says, "In the end, as is always the case, we'll try to shape a class that is academically strong, personally talented, from a diverse range of backgrounds and cultures, and committed to thriving in and positively contributing to a residential community like ours."

The admissions team has a busy few months ahead of them before May 1, the deadline for students to choose a college and reserve a place at their chosen school.

Bundy Café and Lounge officially open

by Caroline Nash '22
Staff Writer

Students on the east side of campus — also known as the "Greyside" — have a new option for dining and gathering with the opening of the Bundy Café and Lounge on Feb. 1.

According Assistant Dean of Students for Student Engagement Travis Hill, a grand opening coordinated by Student Activities and Residential Life will take place on Feb. 13 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM to officially introduce the new space.

The impetus behind the repurposing of the dining hall space came from students living down the Hill who voiced concerns about feeling disconnected and isolated from other students and the rest of campus.

"Early in my time here, I began to hear complaints about Bundy and how isolated students who live in that area felt," said Dean of Students Terry Martinez. While students who live on the north and south sides of campus have always had relatively easier access to dining and social spaces, the hundreds of students who live on the East side did not.

Martinez said she worked closely with students to understand their needs as the College planned the new space. While not a full dining hall in the same vein as Commons or McEwen, the Bundy Café and Lounge will offer light food options in the mornings and evenings, when students are usually closer to their dorm spaces.

"The idea was to have a convenient place to grab a healthy snack or breakfast when it was too cold or inconvenient to come back up this hill," said Noelle Niznik, Director of Student Activities. Bundy Café is also equipped with a printer, charging stations, an upgraded television, and new furniture, all of which Martinez says were included in student feedback.

While food will be served only during morning and evening hours, the lounge will initially be open from 7 AM to midnight, Monday through Thursday. It will open at 10:00 AM on the weekends and stay open until 2:00 AM on Friday and Saturday nights. According to Martinez, the College will monitor how students use the space and may adjust its hours and functions as appropriate to meet student needs.

Another issue Martinez hopes the new space will address is student interest in alcohol-free weekend programming.

"I have heard from numerous students [...] about a desire to have options for socializing with others that did not necessarily include alcohol and that might be different from the late night events already hosted on campus," Martinez explains.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMANDA KIM '21

Bundy Café and Lounge opened on Feb. 1. It hopes to offer students living down the Hill a place to eat, work, and socialize.

The Student Activities Office plans to work with students to develop programming of that kind in Bundy. Student groups will be able to reserve the lounge at certain times, but Bundy will not be available for events where alcohol is served, as it was in previous years. Martinez says that fewer student groups were reserving Bundy for events, so it made sense to repurpose the space for broader use by students, especially those living down the Hill.

According to Martinez, the Bundy Café and Lounge is just one step in a broader effort to shape the residential experience at Hamilton to promote regular student interaction in and out of the classroom that contributes to a healthy learning environment, as envisioned in the College's 2018 strategic plan.

Martinez says she is contemplating additional improvements to the dorms and resources on the east side of campus in an effort to foster a "neighborhood" feel. She adds that she will continue to seek student feedback on the Bundy Café and Lounge before formally deciding on next steps.

Posse Foundation hosts Hamilton students and faculty for annual retreat

by Alex Reboredo '22
Opinion Editor

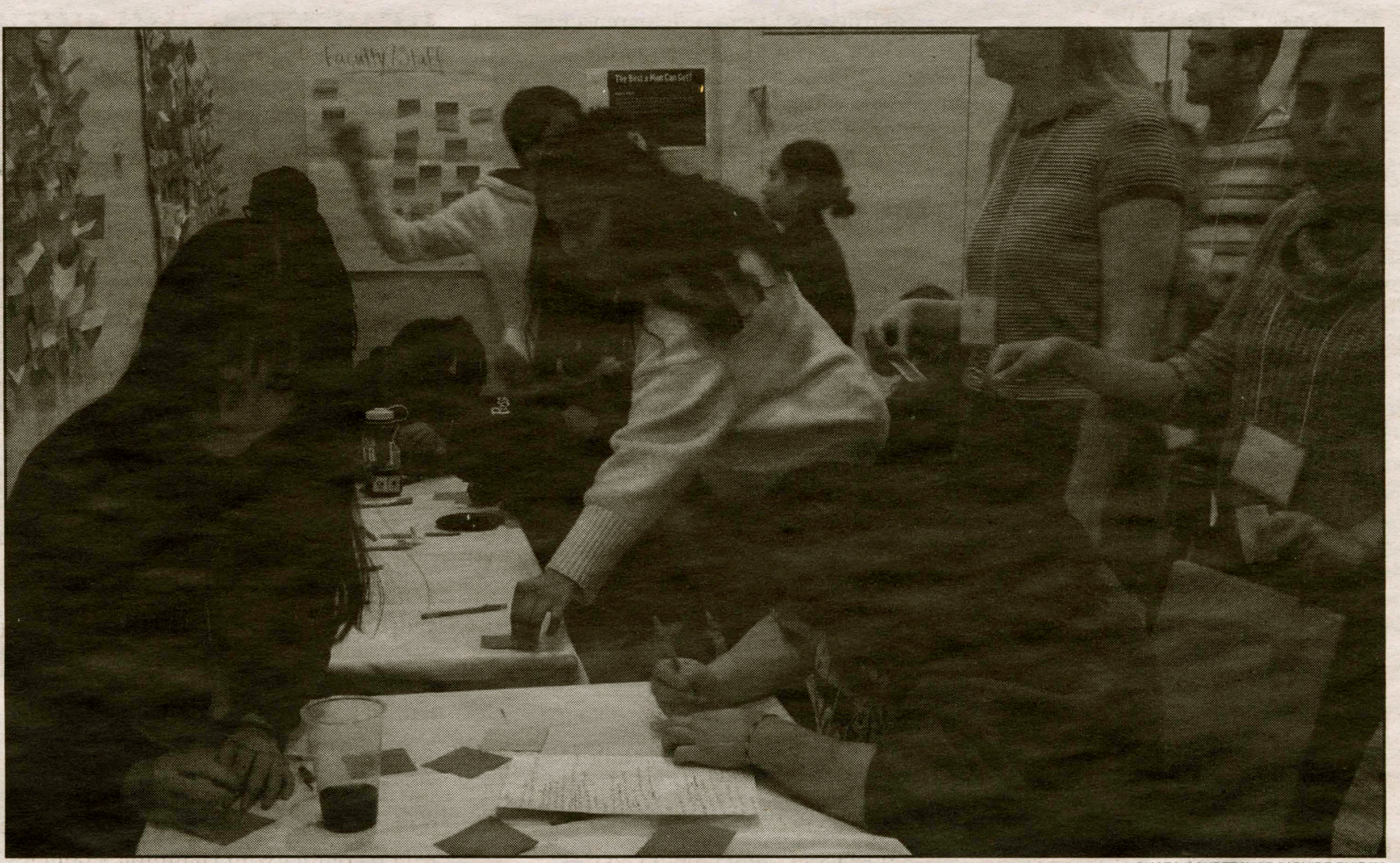

PHOTO COURTESYOF SAPHIRE RUIZ '22

Students and faculty members engaged in various activities at the Posse Plus Retreat, rotating between stations and discussing current political discourse.

From Feb. 1 to Feb. 3, over 150 students and faculty members gathered for the Posse Foundation's annual Posse Plus Retreat.

Each year, students and faculty spend a weekend discussing pressing issues across the nation and campus to work towards initiating change. This year, the retreat celebrated the Posse Foundation's 30th anniversary, creating a theme for the retreat, "The State of Our Union."

Starting in 1989, the Posse Foundation has recruited and trained 8,490 students identified for their leadership and academic potential. Now across 10 major cities in the U.S., Hamilton College is home to two Posses: Miami and Boston.

The weekend began with efforts to create a safe environment to help facilitate the conversations that were going to be held throughout the course of the weekend. Attendees were reassured that the conference was a safe space to share and challenge ideas by being encouraged to advance effective and inclusive dialogue.

The conference then opened with a video shot by the Posse Foundation that highlighted the issues of violence on the streets, homelessness, illegal immigration, the American Dream, poverty, health, and prosperity in the small town of Guadalupe, Arizona. The video was a precursor to the wide variety topics that were going to be discussed that weekend, including immigration, #MeToo, education, policing and prisons, healthcare, identity, and gentrification.

This year's retreat varied widely from previous years, which tended to focus on just one topic. Prior to the retreat, Posse Scholars filled out a survey on what issues they wanted to hear at their retreat. Ultimately, this year led to a myriad of issues.

"It felt like that's where we needed to go with this conversation. We get to build a better future but we need to ask 'How do we get there together?'" said retreat facilitator Dax.

The first event of the retreat emphasized values of education, work, and income, and how they are affected across generations. In a simulation of the game "Life," groups of three people were a family, each person representing a different generation. Families began with a predetermined number of assets and, one by one, went through the different stations, deciding life aspects like whether they went to a public or private K-12, pursued a higher education, got a job, and bought a house.

Along the way, there were "Life Happens" cards that simulated unexpected life occurrences that could set you back or helped you move forward. The activity emphasized the values of hard work, identity, and integrity that the unit also encounters when making decisions.

After, the conference room was transformed into a gallery walk. There were 10 stations spanning in topics from education, healthcare, policing in schools, masculinity and #MeToo, mental health, mass incarceration, immigration, gentrification, and beyond binaries.

Attendees were also encouraged to create stations with a topic they wanted to talk about. Topics that were added included climate change and a discussion on the removal of Posse Boston at Hamilton. Each station was equipped with discussion questions tailored to "surface the tensions, critiques, and talk about them openly," according to facilitators.

One of the main goals of the retreat was to engage with personal identities. Another retreat facilitator, Mihal, shared a saying, "The personal is political," emphasizing how our identities and personal experiences shape our own political ideologies. To engage with the crossroads of identity and politics, different news headlines were scattered on the floor, color-coded by their topic: sexuality, race, politics, immigration, gender, socioeconomic class.

Attendees were prompted to pick up a headline that interested them and create a group of two people, known as a dyad. From there, discussion question cards were handed out, and after the first set of questions, dyads were told to group with another dyad and share what they discussed, and then group with another group of four.

Attendees were given yellow cards to write their own headlines they wished to see on the news and scatter them on the floor. Some of them read: "Percentage of non-Whites in colleges in America sees record-breaking increase," "U.S. backs plan to address climate change," "DACA program extended: path to citizenship."

The retreat also shined a light on the troubles that underrepresented groups face on campus. "In this room alone we draw our heritage from Nigeria, Jamaica, Cuba, Africa, Mexico, Norway, China, Middle East," said Dax. Students shared how they struggled fitting in on campus and finding a space where they felt like they belonged.

"There isn't a space on campus where I can be completely myself. I always have to sacrifice one aspect of my identity for another," shared Saphire Ruiz '22.

Dealing with identity in a different manner, the retreat facilitators read "Where I'm From," by George Ella Lyon and encouraged all attendees to write their own version of the poem. The conference room was converted to a Greek chorus auditorium-style where attendees were encouraged to share pieces of their writing. Attendees were also encouraged to accept the silence comfortably.

The retreat also featured some Posse traditions. Supplied with post-it notes and pens, attendees were encouraged to write each other "warm fuzzies," notes that make you feel warm and fuzzy on the inside. Saturday night featured the "No Talent Talent Show." Performing rap performances, dance battles, stand-up comedy, and singing, attendees were able to express themselves in different art forms. Whether they had talent or not, everyone was welcomed by applause.

The final day of the retreat was geared towards taking the issues discussed in the groups and encountering methods for how to create change. Groups of about 10 were faced with a red critical question card, a yellow card for ideas on how to tackle the issue, and a green card for a personal commitment to creating change. Afterwards, all attendees were split into six groups that were called one at a time, while others sat with their eyes closed. Then, Posse trainers read out prompts which said "Tap someone who took a risk this weekend" or "Tap someone who you believe in."

The Posse Foundation was founded in part due to the struggle that underrepresented groups face on college campuses. According to the Foundation's website, the model "works for both students and college campuses and is rooted in the belief that a small, diverse group of talented students — a Posse — carefully selected and trained, can serve as a catalyst for individual and community development."

"I'm so thankful for my Posse. Just like the creators of Posse, I don't think I'd be at Hamilton without them," said Luis Morales '20.

Administration challenges proposed changes to Title IX procedures

by Renee Varga '20
Contributing Writer

In late November of 2018, the U.S. Department of Education formally published its proposed changes to Title IX. The changes pertain mostly to educational institutions, including college campuses, and the processes they go through in cases of sexual misconduct.

The DOE claims these changes will provide additional support for victims and increase protections for the accused. Many groups advocating for expanded rights for the accused have lauded the proposal while victims and their advocates have pushed back.

The formal publication of the proposed changes to Title IX came with a two-month open comment period where the public was invited to voice its opinion on the changes on an online forum. Hamilton's administration took several measures to voice its concerns over the proposed new rule.

First, the College, along with 23 other small colleges across the United States, cosigned a letter to Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, in which the joint group laid out a number of arguments against the proposed changes, including that institutions should be able to create disciplinary proceedings that best fit the individual institution. The letter points out that the proposed mandatory live hearings would "likely increase complexity, costs, and delays, and may deter reporting," and highlights the added emotional toll to victims. The letter concludes by asking the Department to consider the burden this new proposed rule would place on both students and the administrations of colleges.

Hamilton's administration also signed on to comments prepared by the New York 6, a consortium of liberal arts colleges in New York. The NY6 comments argue that live cross-examinations would create an "unnecessarily stressful" environment for all parties, exacerbate socioeconomic disparities of the parties involved, and would essentially expect institutions to set up their own "internal court systems."

This letter focused primarily on the ways in which the proposed Title IX changes would conflict with existing New York State law. The NY6 argue that their institutions already abide by "extensive" New York laws and implementing additional federal laws would be both unnecessary and complicated.

The final measure taken by Hamilton's administration before the national comment period closed was to issue a statement specific to the College. This statement contends that, under the new proposed rule, the definition of sexual assault would be "inappropriately" limited in the types and scope of conduct that may be considered. The letter says such a limited definition is not consistent with the College's own definition and would no longer cover situations reviewed by Hamilton's Title IX office under its current definition.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMANDA KIM '21

Hamilton signed on to three separate letters challenging the Department of Education's proposed changes to Title IX policy.

The statement goes on to identify four other ways in which the new rule would conflict with Hamilton's policies, contesting the proposed stipulations of investigations into each complaint regardless of severity, mandated live hearings, unrestricted access to review evidence for both parties, and prohibition of both parties to discuss allegations in an ongoing investigation.

All three letters were signed when the comment period closed on Jan. 30, and can be found on Hamilton's website.

In addition to these official statements, Hamilton's Title IX office held informational sessions open to those in the campus community interested in learning more about the proposed changes.

Catherine Berryman, the College's Director of Community Standards and Title IX coordinator, has also been in conversation with the other NY6 and NESCAC schools to discuss ways in which each institution may have to change current policies in the Department of Education's proposed changes are implemented.

Given that the comment period ended recently, the final version of the rule has not yet been decided and Hamilton has not been required to implement any changes to its Title IX policies or proceedings.

ISC leadership retreat fosters dialogue between Greek life and administration

by Casey Macolino '21
Contributing Writer

Last Sunday, Feb. 3, the Inter-Society Council (ISC) hosted the first annual ISC Leadership retreat in the Bristol Dwight Lounge. The event developed from an effort to create productive conversation between Greek organizations and the administration, and to present any and all guidelines for the rush process.

The retreat was conceived of by Noelle Niznik, Director of Student Activities, along with the ISC co-chairs Sarah Robertson '19 and Kevin Alcala '19. All Greek society leaders (the President, Vice President, treasurer) were required to attend along with one rush chair from each society.

The ISC is a student organization in which all Greek societies recognized by Hamilton must participate. It is the governing body for all private societies.

Recently, a major goal of the ISC has been to provide a central voice for the many fraternities and sororities on campus to communicate with the administration. These efforts have been prompted largely by the Blue Ribbon Committee, which was formed by Dean of Student Terry Martinez to review the activity of Hamilton's Greek organizations as well as strengthen fraternity and sorority life on campus.

The ISC and the administration focused the retreat on improving communication between the two groups. Niznik provided a 45-minute update on the Blue Ribbon Committee's findings, highlighting areas that are most likely going to be altered when the official report is published. Notably, the rush process, which in the past has lasted most of spring semester, is being shortened. This year, the formal rush period (during which societies can offer bids to rushes) will be ending on May 1 as opposed to the final day of the semester. Pending the results of the Blue Ribbon Committee's report, Niznik informed the participants that it may be shortened further in the coming years.

Niznik also laid out efforts to increase the transparency of the rush process by having the recruitment chairs for each society submit a calendar with all planned rush events on it. According to Niznik, this would be to ensure that if medical issues occur at any rush events, the school can better determine where and how these issues occurred.

The retreat was not entirely dedicated to facilitating more open communication between the administration and the members of the Council. The first hour of the event featured a Q&A session during which senior leaders from the Greek societies answered questions about leadership strategies which have improved their society. This was valuable information, not only for the administration, but also for the other participating societies.

The panel discussed issues ranging from how to engage with alumni to effective budgeting strategies. This conversation came to an end with a discussion of a potential multi-society philanthropy event which the panel could host in the near-future. This event, which will be a mud run to benefit cancer research, is still in the process of being developed but presents a unique opportunity for the often-disconnected private societies to come together and give back to the community.

Keeping with the theme of helping the community, this retreat also featured a comprehensive 90-minute Bystander Intervention Training led by Cori Smith '17, the College's Title IX Education and Compliance Coordinator. The training acknowledged the ability that Greek societies have to influence the nature of social events on campus, and leaders were taught ways in which they could create a safe environment for everyone who attends their events.

The retreat provided both experienced and newly elected leaders with insight into how they can support the community going forward and take action if they ever encounter situations of sexual misconduct.

"It was great to have a place where we can share what makes each group better and how we can improve the community," said Philip Tran '20, treasurer of Delta Kappa Epsilon.

The Anxiety of Perfection

We are all here because we are good at something. For a lot of people at this school, they are here because they are really good at something.

So what happens when you have a pile of high-achieving people crammed into the same space, eating the same food, pounding the same coffee, all trying to get something out of these short four years we have here? Anxiety. An absolutely massive amount of pure, uncut anxiety.

I take one step into Commons at noon and suddenly I'm reexamining every decision I've ever made to bring me to the point of standing in a 30 person line for the chance to choose from three different squash dishes.

There's a reason the counseling center is always booked. There's a reason we drink so much on the weekends, or go to the gym, or procrastinate, or smoke cigarettes, or write poetry. They are all outlets, valves through which we can offload some of that vasoconstricting, leg-shaking, eye-twitching anxiety that comes from being a small fish in a pond that is crammed with other small fish who are paying a lot of money to do better than you.

But maybe I'm projecting. Maybe that's just me and everyone else is doing completely fine. But I doubt it, and frankly I have no idea how to change it. I'm just hoping to ride the undulating wave of stress and late nights to retirement.

Best,

Peter Case '21
Editorial Editor

The Spectator editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.

The Spectator is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely, and high-quality publication.

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Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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Response to Dean Martinez: Bundy Café and Lounge

by Harry Dubke '19
Opinion Contributor

This January, while students were home enjoying winter break, the Dean of Students Office successfully converted Bundy Dining Hall from a musty storage space and occasional dance floor into a parfait-filled gathering space for Greyside students. The Bundy Dining Hall renovation was celebrated across campus by both current and recovering Greyside residents as a much-needed change to what had once been the most isolated corner of campus. The Dean's Office had listened to Hamilton's students and delivered what they longed for — a new community center to replace the mid-winter marches to Commons that had defined Greyside life for so long. However they neglected to address one key point.

While ushering in the opening of Bundy Café, the Dean of Students Office quietly removed Bundy Dining Hall from both the social space lottery and the list of student social spaces available to host events with alcohol. In doing so, they reduced the number of such spaces by one-third, leaving only the Tolles Pavilion (Annex) and the Bristol Hub for social events with alcohol. Furthermore, the Dean's Office eliminated Bundy from this list without once asking for student input on its removal and notified students of the change only after the fact. As a former Greysider myself, I applaud the opening of Bundy Café both as a source of fresh fruit and an alternative community gathering space. As a student of Hamilton College, however, I am deeply concerned at what appears to be yet another case of the Dean of Students Office ignoring our voices while pushing bullishly ahead with its own agenda.

In the weeks since winter break, concerned students have called upon the Dean's Office to answer two main questions: Why was Bundy Dining Hall removed from the social space lottery and why were student voices not included in that decision-making process? Dean Martinez, in response, has both written a letter to the editor [Editor's Note: Dean Martinez's letter was published on page 4 of the Jan. 31 issue.] and defended her office's position in front of Student Assembly. The last paragraph of her letter states her office's reasoning clearly: although the Dean's Office realizes that converting Bundy Dining Hall "reduces the number of locations available for student organizations to have parties [...] data showed a drop in utilizing social spaces, Bundy in particular. Based on these data, and the input we received from students, we are confident we can provide an attractive café option and still meet the social space needs for student organizations." While there has been a relative decline in the use of social spaces for events with alcohol in recent years, the other claims made in this statement are blatantly untrue.

Firstly, I'm concerned by Dean Martinez's misleading statements on the level of student involvement in the decision to remove Bundy Dining Hall as a social space. While Dean Martinez did receive much student input on the creation of Bundy Café, her office entirely neglected to take student voices into account when removing Bundy from the social space lottery. Not only did she not address the changes when presenting her ideas to Student Assembly this fall, she also neglected to mention her plans to the students on the Alcohol Strategy Working Group she created specifically to discuss such issues. When I asked Dean Martinez in my capacity as a member of Student Assembly during this week's meeting why she didn't mention Bundy's removal to the student body, she responded simply that "I didn't tell the student body because you weren't here." To me, that response is emblematic of just how easily the Dean of Students Office disregards students' voices at Hamilton.

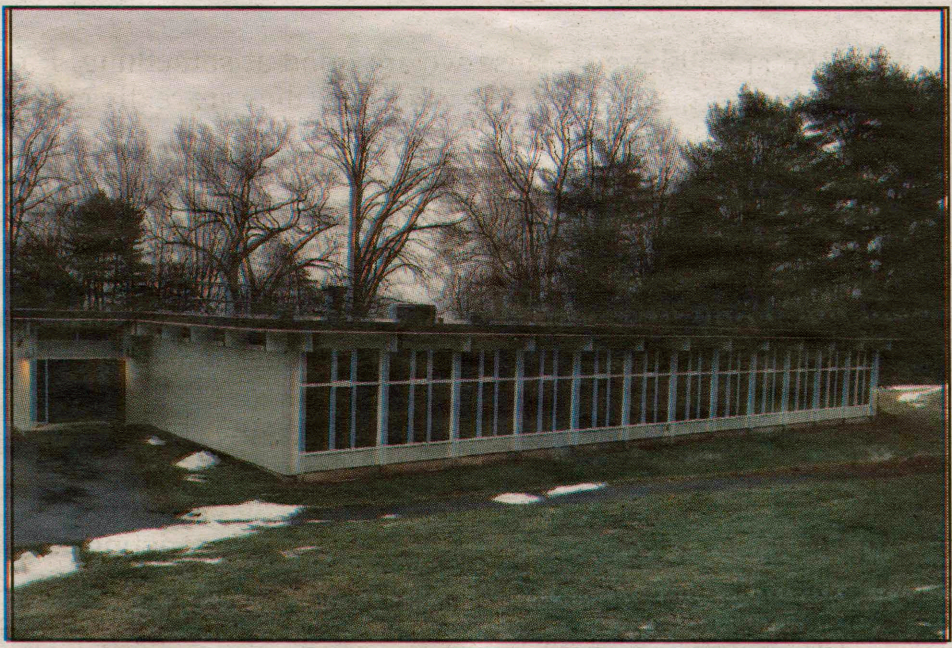


PHOTO COURTESY KELLY COLLINS '21

Furthermore, the Dean's Office wholly misrepresents the findings of the data (which has been released to Student Assembly by the Dean of Students Office.) While they correctly claim that overall use of the three existing social spaces that permit alcohol consumption has been in decline since the fall of 2015, the same data directly contradict their claim that Bundy is underutilized. In fact, Bundy Dining Hall has consistently been booked more times per semester than any other social space. These three social spaces are booked on the same night an average of over four times per semester, demonstrating a clear need for more than just two social spaces for events with alcohol. Dean Martinez also cited many students' desire to have more weekend programming without alcohol — programming that a student might assume is available at the new Bundy Café until they check 25Live and realize that Bundy Dining Hall is closed for all Friday and Saturday events until June.

Going forward, I truly hope that the Dean of Students Office will listen to all of our voices more closely, perhaps by reopening Bundy for weekend events or by adding a new social space to the lottery. I did not write this article to dismiss their amazing progress with Bundy Café, but instead to bring to light what I view as a major cultural problem within the Office. Time and time again, students have called for more transparency and student input with decisions affecting their life on the Hill, yet the Dean of Students Office still ignores our voices at its convenience. I think it's about time we make sure our voices are heard. I think it's about time they listened.

Re: Common Ground and MLK

Dear *Spectator* Editorial Board,

Following up on Professor Westmaas' terrific letter last week, I would like to add my own disappointment with the Common Ground series so far. Three of the four scheduled events so far feature two white male professional political operatives. As evidenced by the 2018 election, our nation's political conversation is increasingly including a variety of voices — women, people of color, members of the LGBTQ+ communities, Muslims, immigrants — who up to now have been underrepresented or outright excluded. Moreover, most of the important political actors tackling important issues of the day, such as racism, sexual harassment and gender discrimination, climate change, LGBTQ+ rights, income inequality, criminal justice, urban redevelopment, rural poverty, health care, and voting rights, are not professional political operatives. Rather, they are grassroots activists, insurgent politicians, nonprofit leaders, faith leaders, entrepreneurs, and journalists. Given these developments, the exclusivity and lack of imagination displayed by the Common Ground series is utterly dumbfounding.

Sincerely,
Peter F. Cannavò
Professor of Government

Thumbs Up / Thumbs Down / Who Cares?

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
Bundy Dining Hall	**Bundy Dining Hall**	**Bundy Dining Hall**
The transition between "imbibing" and some late night munchies has never been easier.	Students on campus have one less social space in which to throw up their bagged wine.	At the end of the day those kids are still living in Bundy. That's tough.
Not having to deal with awkward pre-coital walk from Diner B to Bundy. Just grab a snack and get freaky.	I'm angry this wasn't around during my 1.5 years in Bundy. If I didn't get it then no one should. Right guys?	I give it until Spring Break before that dining hall gets trapped out worse than a frat's storage space in the Annex.

by Gavin Meade '20

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

An open letter to the senior class: do your part to better the world

by Taylor Kim '19
Staff Writer

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Class of 2019, especially my white, affluent peers:

As we prepare to enter the "real world," I implore you to think about how you want to live your life. You have so much power.

Let me repeat that: You have so much power.

It's not a secret that oppression exists in all different forms on our small planet: racism, homophobia, transphobia, poverty, Islamophobia, etc. There are more forms of violence and suffering than we know what to do with.

I ask you to do your part in dismantling what you can.

We, Hamilton College, are currently profiting off these forms of oppression. We are on gifted Oneida land and have failed to uphold our promises to the tribe. We flourish off white supremacy and racism. Our entire country benefits off the forced manual labor of past generations of slaves, Indigenous peoples, and currently disenfranchised individuals.

I benefit too. I am at this school because European people traveled here, murdered the Indigenous people, worked the land with kidnapped slaves, exploited the environment, and worked to keep power imbalances in place. My parents saw that this country was affluent and wanted to profit off of it. But the American dream is a lie. Our country is not a meritocracy. The barriers are simply too high for immigrants who do not speak English.

I learned English on the fly in my preschool classroom and after years of blindly working towards a college education, I am here at an institution that exists because of inequality, war, violence, and exploitation. And I am getting a damn good deal. I'm getting the opportunity to be respected as an educated adult and hopefully work a comfortable white-collar job that pays well and allows me to be ignorant of the suffering around the world.

But if Hamilton is really the college "on a hill" we like to imagine it to be, we must push ourselves to strive for a life more than this. If we are truly to be innovators and role models in our country, we can no longer stand for the centuries of injustice to which we personally contribute.

Although everyone's circumstances are different and I do not want to shame anyone for providing for their families, I ask that we all think of ways to incorporate breaking down our current oppressive systems into our everyday lives.

So many of us come from privilege and will live out the rest of our lives in privilege. The amount of students who live in million dollar houses is incredible. These students are very likely to buy their own million dollar houses without so much as an idea of what it's like to struggle. We are so sheltered from climate change, poverty, hardship, and genocide by our money.

If every person in our graduating class contributed to positive, humane change, we could have a significant impact. Our peers who are going to work jobs that pay 6 figures could donate a small sum of money every month to activists who need it the most. Our peers in legal fields and government agencies can work to fight the system of oppression from inside of it. Our peers in the arts and education can give disenfranchised students the opportunity to have their own voice. Most of all, we can implement small habits in our lives that reflect thoughtful compassion and justice. My point is not to dictate every moment of your life but to encourage a focus on civic responsibility, whether through donating to charity or educating yourself on systematic oppression. We can change not only our own lifestyles but also galvanize the people around us to join us in the effort to create a world we want to live in. We have so much power and so much to give.

I'm not asking that you give your life, but your heart.

We can only work to create a better world through compassion. We must care about each other if we want a society that works together and does the least amount of harm possible. We cannot continue to profit off of slave labor, environmental destruction, and cruelty. This is an unsustainable model and we are on a path to an uninhabitable planet.

To the administrators, the College cannot simply go on the way it is. We must make amends for our broken promises with the Oneida nation. We must have mandatory education on oppression around the world and in our own home. What use is educating students if they are ignorant of what is most important? Learning how to make money is not what is most important.

What use is money if there is no world to spend it in? If we do not have compassion and self-awareness within ourselves? That kind of life is empty and devoid of what is good in the world.

The technical problems that the College faces in making these changes are simply excuses. If an institution with this much power and money fails to do what's right, who can succeed? The College needs to set the example and the tone. They need foster a sense of real community amongst the students that is built off the foundation of a shared humanity. The College must foster a sense of responsibility to the world because we are all interconnected, whether we like to admit it or not.

The cold tundra that is Central New York can feel hostile, but the College, administrators and individual students combined can work towards being the warm and inviting light on a hill we strive to be.

To all of the disadvantaged students: congratulations, we did it. We surmounted the odds and succeeded. We are here and we have bright futures ahead of us. But, let's not forget those who weren't able to come with us for this journey. As many of us as there are on this campus, there are so many more who did not have the same opportunities or luck. I hope that enduring this process of oppression hasn't hardened our hearts so much that we cease to care for those among us who need the most help.

I understand the desire to be financially comfortable. This is something I desperately want for myself and my parents who have worked tirelessly for decades. I am sick and tired of being poor and being constantly worried about how I am going to pay for necessities. I'm exhausted from being in constant fear that something is going to happen that I won't have the resources to recover from. I'm weary of worrying about my parents' health and old age because of their hazardous jobs and unsafe working conditions.

But — and this is my own personal opinion that I never want to impose on anyone who has been in a similar circumstance — I also want to work so that no other little girl feels the way I do.

I don't want to hear of children rummaging through trash for food.

I don't want to hear of separations of families by financial circumstances or government violence.

I don't want to hear of people who are unable to inhabit their homes because of dangerous conditions or climate change.

I don't want to hear that there are people who work constantly and are still unable to provide for themselves and their families.

I'm sick and tired of these tragedies. So I ask you, every member of the Hamilton College community, to open your heart to the suffering of yourself and those around you so that we can all, every single one of us, do our share in making our planet a better home. As cliche as it is, we are beginning our lives as full fledged adults with more responsibility than we've ever had. Let's take the collective power of 500 smart, capable, privileged adults and make our mark on the world.

Bachelor & Bachelorette

Mark Herdiech '22

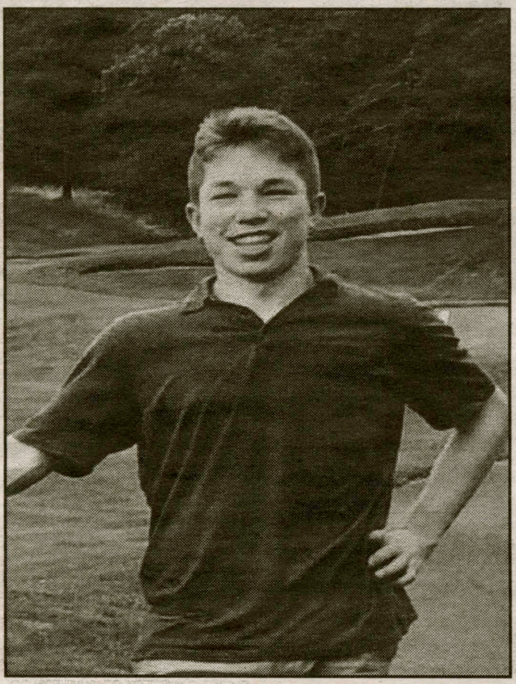


PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK HERDIECH '22

Hometown: *Groton, M.A.*
Home on Campus: *Dunham.*
Major: *Undecided.*
Turn on? *"Socially liberal but financially conservative."*
Turn off? *Headphones with wires.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"Melts in your mouth, not in your hands."*
What TV genre best describes you? *Rom-com.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"Wyd?" *read at 3:08am*.*
What's your type? *New England sports fan.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Shower speaker, a bed rail, and daddy's credit card.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *Lib 2nd floor.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *Full Moon Club.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Full Moon Club.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Juuling within 20 ft of any building.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Well-fitting pants.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Roger Goodell.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Marge.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Dunham facilities guy.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *Matty Jackmauh '22.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Booting in the sink.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Bacon mess because you'll regret it in the morning.*
Lights on or lights off? *Lights off.*
Favorite campus study spot? *Science Center room by the stairs.*
What's the last lie you told? *I don't actually want to go to Full Moon Club.*
What was your first thought this morning? *The mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell.*
What's the meaning of life? *Giving happiness to other people.*
Which member of Disney royalty are you? *Demi Lovato.*
Which American historical figure are you attracted to and why? *John Wilkes Booth because he knows when to shoot his shot.*

Eva Nolan '22

PHOTO COURTESY OF EVA NOLAN '22

Hometown: *Wyckoff, N.J.*
Home on Campus: *South.*
Major: *Math.*
Turn on? *Can cook me dinner.*
Turn off? *Brings me to Commons for dinner.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Bundy, cause I'm all downhill from here.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Post Malone and Avril Lavigne because I dress like a trash bag and Avril didn't die in 2003, the clone replaced her so she could run away and raise me in the woods.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"Finger Lickin' Good" -KFC.*
What TV genre best describes you? *Comedy.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *He looked at me and said simply "so can we hook up now?"*
What's your type? *Smells good, can go shot-for-shot with me without dying.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Nicotine, caffeine, and alcohol.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *Sadove basement because I can get down and dirty.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *MOHASA.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Jump into the KTSA pond.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Dental hygiene.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Anything that smells bad.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Brandon Stone.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Brandon Stone.*
What would your perfect date be? *Bring me takeout pizza at 2AM, then leave so I can eat the whole thing and go back to bed.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Setting off the South fire alarm.*
If you were a food, which would you be?and why? *Cool Ranch Doritos.*
What's the last lie you told? *I'm gonna quit juuling.*
What was your first thought this morning? *I'm late for my 10AM.*
What's the meaning of life? *Finding the best pizza delivery place.*
Which American historical figure are you attracted to and why? *Rupert Brooke 'cause he's sexy and a poet with a British accent.*

February 7, 2019

Bundy residents on the new Café & Lounge

by Tiffany Lopes '21
Staff Writer

PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY COLLINS

Bundy Dining Hall has reopened its doors as Bundy Café & Lounge, an anticipated social and dining space with particular focus towards the east side, or "Greyside," of campus. Previously, Bundy Dining Hall was a space mostly used for social events on the weekends. Now, east side residents, particularly those residing in Bundy East and West residence halls, can use the space to eat, socialize, and study. Many students are excited about this opening due to the previous lack of spaces for eating and studying down the Hill. So, I asked a few Bundy residents to share their current impressions of how the Bundy Café & Lounge space has affected their living situations so far.

How would you describe your overall experience at Bundy Café?

Zhaosen Guo '21: I was able to to get good food in just a 2 minute walk, and I also have opportunities to hang out with friends in the lounge. The food is varied, for example, we had tacos on Tuesday.

How pleased are you with the lounge space? Does it add to the experience of the Café?

Guo: Yes. I can choose to work, read, or simply relax on those sofas. It was great – exceeded my expectation.

Emily Rivito '21: I love the lounge space! I can do my homework, hang out with friends, and just have a good atmosphere to start or end my days with. It has a great coffee shop feel, which I appreciate. Very cozy, warm, and inviting.

Has Bundy Café improved your dining hall experience at Hamilton? If so, how?

Rivito: Yes. It has made it more possible for me to eat breakfast in the morning and not be late for class. It also allows me to have healthier and more filling options for snacks at night. It's been great. I absolutely love it, and it has improved my experience at Hamilton!

Andrew Kim '21 : Having the Bundy Cafe open again makes getting food much more convenient. Instead of walking all the way up the hill just to get food, I can easily get breakfast or dinner.

Have you found the options provided varied and sufficient?

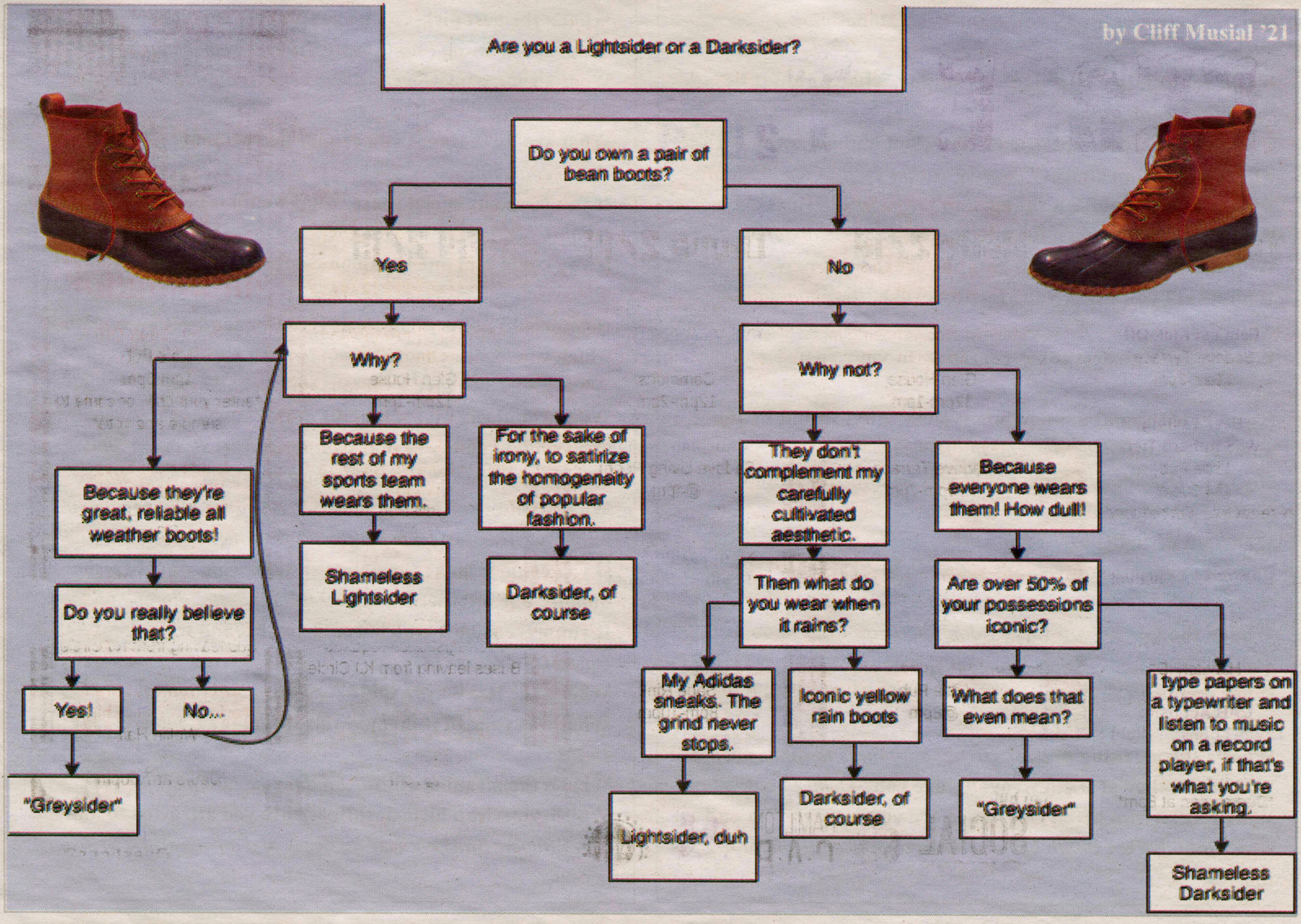
Kim: Yes, especially for breakfast. The food tastes like it is fresh, instead of sitting out all day. Most noticeably, the fruit is much better than the fruit at Commons or McEwen. The late night food bars provide an easy way to have variety.

Do you think students in the future will be more willing to live on the Greyside because of Bundy Café?

Guo: I think so [...] however, it would not become the deciding factor. We should promote it more to the Greyside community.

Rivito: I don't think there will be a lot more students willing to live on "Greyside" just because of Bundy Café, but it will make it less disappointing for them.

Kim: Of course: one of the main problems about Bundy was having to go up the Hill to do anything, including working, eating, or printing. Thanks to the reopening of the cafe, you can go down the hill after classes and not worry about having to go back up.



From Where I Sit: A Bridge to Happiness

Hamilton's International Perspectives Column

by Ha (Jenny) Tran '22
Contributing Writer

The day I started to write this article was the last day of the Lunar New Year. In the last few sacred moments of 2018 I decided to reflect on my best moments of the year and put my thoughts into words. for this article I chose to share a story that I consider to be one in a million. Happy New Year here we go!

I like to think of myself as a bridge. I was the bridge for a man to, fortunately with success, adopt a son. This child fulfilled his true happiness, the unheard voice found listening ears, and those sad and unfortunate found their joy in life.

I came to know this kind and warm-hearted man who wanted nothing more than to nurture a child. For many years, he had struggled with the adoption process without receiving any response from the Vietnamese government. The fact that he was single and a man did not work in his favor. Being raised by a single parent myself, I understand the prejudice a single parent has to face in Vietnamese society, so I wanted to help.

There was a frail baby in need of a welcoming home. I wanted to do something to bring these two lives together, and on this strange yet exciting journey, I overcame numerous obstacles in the process of adoption. As a foreigner, the "adopting father" was rather unfamiliar with the process of Vietnamese government. To the best of my ability, I tried to connect with local officials, deal with the paperwork, and figure out the lengthy process that, as a foreigner, was painstaking and confusing for him and, for a single parent, there was yet another set of requirements to fulfill.

Understanding these issues was challenging, but explaining them to the father was even harder. Without specialized knowledge on the subject, I struggled. but finally managed, to clarify all terms to the adopting father by filling out the application with him, bilingually.

From this experience, I learned that the procedure itself was complicated and unclear, almost like it was trying to steer people away and challenge their real intentions for adopting a baby. I realized that society's cautiousness and hesitance to give a baby to a stranger was critical to ensure the well-being of the child in a less than perfect world. Single parenting is fairly new and often unwelcomed by traditional Vietnamese culture. As long as conventional mindsets don't change, people will not truly understand single parenthood. Nevertheless, the determination, seriousness and patience of the father himself was essential to keep the process on the right track.

On June 23, I was sitting in a car going to Bac Kan, bringing a baby home to his adopted family. While I was happy for both the adopting father and adopted son, I was also concerned about their future together. I understand how hard it is being a single parent in this society because I have experienced it firsthand growing up with a single mom. Unless this attitude changes, I am worried that the adopted boy will have to deal with the social stereotypes and personal adversity later in his life. I created the beginning of their happy ending, and now I want this happiness to last.

> *"I created the beginning of their happy ending, and now I want this happiness to last."*

But beyond that, I want to help many others, though I know now that my passion alone will not result in realistic solutions. Skills and experiences are necessary for me to help others. More importantly, I need to advocate for changes to the current stigmas towards single parenting in our society.

I am glad that there has been, and will be, bridges like me. The bridges are all of us who play a great role in creating a new and better life for others. The bridges are people who care. I have seen great examples of Hamilton professors helping the local refugee community and Hamilton students reaching out to the local low-income families to offer their support. I am greatly blessed to be in a community that shares my values. And together, at Hamilton, we can all become bridges toward a better future for all people. As Rabbi Nachman of Breslov says:"The whole world is a very narrow bridge. The key is not to be afraid".

PHOTO COURTESY OF HA (JENNY) TRAN '22

'From Where I Sit' is a column dedicated to international students' voices. If you are interested in contributing a piece, contact Features editors at featspec@hamilton.edu

FEBFEST 2019

= swag stop

Tues 2/12

FebFest Kick-Off
Sadove Terrace
11am-2pm

Beer Tasting w/ Southern Tier
Little Pub
@4:30pm
Pre-registration required, must have Pub ID

BANFF Film Festival
KJ Aud
@7pm
Tickets required, $10 with Hamiton ID

CAB Acoustic Coffeehouse: A Night with The Districts
8:30pm-10pm
Doors open at 8pm

Weds 2/13

"Mellow" Snowshoeing in the Glen
Glen House
12pm-1pm

Food Truck Rodeo
Sadove Terrace
4:30pm-7pm

Grand Opening: Bundy Cafe & Lounge w/ SPAC Coffeehouse
Bundy Cafe & Lounge
6:30pm-9:30pm

FebFest Trivia Night
Little Pub
@8pm

Thurs 2/14

FYE Valentine Goody Bags
Commons
12pm-2pm

Chocolate Tasting
Sadove Living Room
@4pm

HAVOC Valentine's Card-Making for the Presbyterian Home
Sadove Lobby
@4pm

HamSkate
Sage Rink
8pm-10pm

Fri 2/15

"Xtreme" Snowshoeing in the Glen
Glen House
12pm-1pm

Happy Hour w/ Good Nature Brewing & Owera Winery
Little Pub
@4:30pm

CAB Snow Tubing
Woods Valley
5:30pm - 10pm
Pre-registration required
Buses leaving from KJ Circle

Men's Hockey vs. Middlebury College
Sage Rink
@7pm

My Big Fat Greek Late Nite
Events Barn
9pm-12am

Sat 2/16

Chlii Cook-Off
Little Pub
1pm-3pm
enter your chili, or come to sample and vote

Men's Hockey vs. Williams College
Sage Rink
@3pm

Bowling Trip
3:30pm-6:30pm
Pre-registration required
Bus leaving from KJ Circle

CAB Comedy: Brent Morin with Julia Shiplett
Wellin Hall
8pm-9:30pm
Doors at 7:30pm

Brought to you by:
SOCIAL TRADITIONS
SA
HAMILTON C·A·B
Sadove
LATE NITE

Questions?
Email FebFest@Hamilton.edu

Celebrating Diversity: Ibero-American Film Festival comes to Hamilton College

by Kyandreia Jones '19
Staff Writer

On Monday, Feb. 4, the Celebrating Diversity: Women and Children in Ibero American Film Series commenced with the film *Después de Lucía* (in English, *After Lucía*) (2012.)

The festival screens films that depict social inequality, gender dynamics, refugees and other crucial subjects. In addition to bringing in diverse films, the festival promises to attract a diverse audience of filmmakers, including several from the Utica community and members of both the Film as well as Women and Gender Studies departments at Hamilton. The event seeks to welcome every voice to be heard and seen in advancing its goal of engaging community members who wish to enrich both themselves and their understanding of complex issues.

The festival is funded and supported by several organizations such as Pragda, SPAIN Arts & Culture, the Secretary of State of Culture of Spain, the Kirkland Endowment Fund, the Days-Massolo Center, the Dean of Students Office, the Cinema and Media Studies Program, and the Hispanic Studies Department.

Directed by award-winning Mexican filmmaker, producer, and director Michel Franco, *Después de Lucía* follows chef Roberto Rojas (Hernán Mendoza) and his teenage daughter Alejandra "Ale" Rojas (Tessa Ía González Norvind) as they move to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, after the death of wife and mother Lucía Rojas. While Ale adjusts to her new life with ease, her father continually grapples with the emotional repercussions of beginning anew after a tragic loss.

However, Ale's world is turned upside down when a leaked recording of her having intercourse with a classmate named José (Gonzalo Vega Sisto) makes her the target of sexual violence and bullying at her new school.

The film also explores topics of innocence, mental health, women's sexuality, and communication between parents and children. Franco handles these issues without flinching from themes like the danger of silence or the uglinesses of human behavior.

The film has many scenes that are difficult to watch and even harder to reckon with.

"Latin American movies often bring forward hard issues and are honest in depicting violence and the flaws of the human condition," said Visiting Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies Inés Corujo-Martin. Corujo-Martin is instrumental in bringing films like Después de Lucía to campus. "Franco is very influenced by extreme realism, using realist scenes to shock the spectator and provoke emotions without relief," Corujo-Martin added.

When asked about the difficulty of watching certain scenes, Corujo-Martin said, "Bullying is harshly depicted, but in real life, bullying is just as harsh."

In the film, Ale's male classmates see her as a sex object and force themselves on her at their every convenience. At first Ale fights back and escapes sexual violence, but more cruel acts weaken her mental state and she becomes helpless against her attackers. Her female classmates view her as a threat. She has nowhere to go and no one to turn to as she does not want to break her already depressed father's heart. She often lies to her father, saying that she is "okay."

PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

Después de Lucía (After Lucia) stars Hernán Mendoza and Tessa Ía González Norvind.

Después de Lucía won multiple prestigious awards, including those from the Cannes Film Festival, Chicago International Film Festival, Havana Film Festival, and San Sebastián International Film Festival.

Corujo-Martin said the Festival's goals are to start difficult conversations and to bring the community together.

"We can extrapolate these themes in any culture," she said.

She adds that the whole Hamilton community would benefit from these screenings and conversations:

"For example, Franco brings up topics and themes that we don't really talk about. [These topics and themes are] uncomfortable, but let's talk about them. What are the problems that women and children face in our society? How are these problems depicted?"

Celebrating Diversity: Women and Children in Ibero American Film Series aims to answer the aforementioned questions and show how important it is for marginalized people (such as women and children) to have a voice. Diverse conversations like those featured in *Después de Lucía* add inclusion and relatability.

"Sometimes I watch movies and I feel indifferent," said Corujo-Martin, "[but] these films will not make you feel indifferent. You will keep talking about them."

The festival continues with a screening of *El aula vacía* (*The Empty Classroom*) on Feb. 19 at 7 PM in G027 of the Science Center.

El aula vacía is a compilation of eleven short films that explore the different reasons why nearly half of South American students don't finish high school. Each short is directed by a different award-winning filmmaker and utilizes either a narrative or documentary format. The film posits that political, cultural, medical, financial, and societal issues within South American countries prevent students from graduating.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TWITTER

Pragda's Spanish Film Club initiative brings Spanish and Latin-American films to high schools and universities.

The Bachelor Survival Guide

by Emma Mae Regan '22
A&E Editor

Warning: If you're not caught up on the Bachelor, there are some spoilers in this article.

Forget the Super Bowl and the Academy Awards, the real drama and competition of television can be found on this season of *The Bachelor*. With 30 competitors, a plethora of tears and booze, and catty contestants willing to do anything to stay another week, it's almost impossible to come out on top. Almost.

With this guide, you will learn the dos and don'ts of the competition. Given that my expertise consists of being a loyal member of *Bachelor* Nation since 2013, I guarantee that after reading you will be well prepared to compete on either *The Bachelor* or *The Bachelorette*. So, grab a glass of wine and open that *Bachelor* application because you're already on your way to meeting the love of your life.

DO: Have a job. Seriously — anything that sounds like a real job. As much as any of us would love to be Cinderella or a sloth for the rest of our lives, all of the show's winners have had titles that at least sound like real jobs. Professions like "Tickle Monster" and "Whaboom" (Rachel Lindsay's season) are off-putting. Even if you have to embellish your title a bit, you've got to fake it till you make it, right?

DON'T: Wear an animal costume. Alexis, the Dolphin/Shark from Nick Viall's season, killed it the first time. She stayed for a few weeks and was definitely one of the most memorable cast members from that season. No other contestant has been nearly as successful. Colton, this season's bachelor, sent Alex D, the Sloth, home on the first night and Matt, the Penguin, got barely any screen time during Rachel Lindsay's season.

DON'T: Give the Bachelor/Bachelorette your pet. Sorry, Catherine, this is a dating show, not a pet hotel.

DO: Be proactive about getting one-on-one time. Look, it's a dog-eat-dog kind of environment. Formalities are out of the picture. If you're not getting time with them, it's up to you to make it happen.

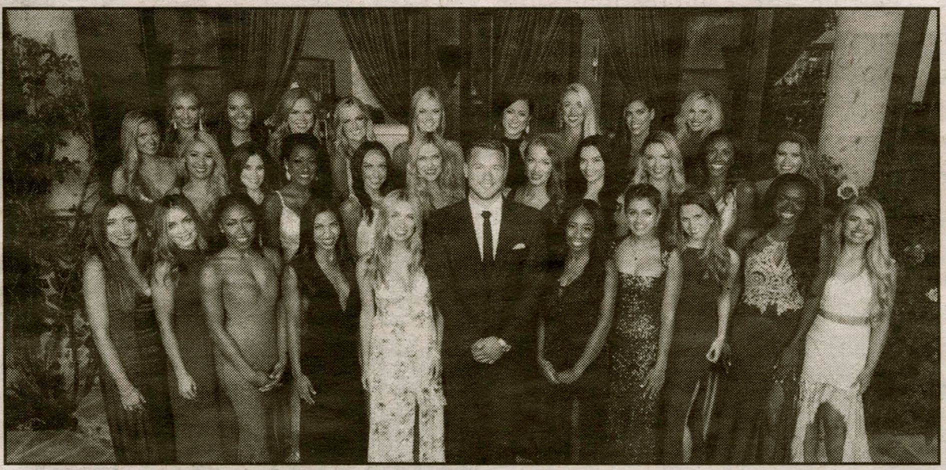


PHOTO COURTESY OF BUSTLE

The Bachelor airs Mondays at 8 PM on *ABC*.

DO: Entice other contestants to do your dirty work for you. Why spend your one-on-one time complaining with the bachelor/bachelorette when you can convince another contestant to do it for you? To paraphrase current controversial contestant, Demi: we'd all love to be a fly on the wall during Onyeka and Nicole's showdown.

DON'T: Be scared to open up. While you definitely don't have to tell your life story on the first night, both you and the bachelor/bachelorette are trying to find love. Being open with one another can only be the grounds for a happy and healthy relationship!

DO: Have genuinely entertaining beef with another contestant. Still despise your rival from your beauty pagent days? Think one of your roomates is the "cancer" of the house? Trying to stand up for your bestie? The best way to deal with all of that tension is definitely to fight about it. The better the fight, the longer you'll last in the competition! (Extra points if your fight is so dramatic that the episode ends with "To Be Continued…")

DON'T: Focus on other relationships in the house. Try not to be that person who believes it's their "duty" to inform the bachelor/bachelorette that another contestant is "here for the wrong reasons." Just like Courtney (and possibly Onyeka and Nicole), you'll be saying your goodbyes by the time the Rose Ceremony arrives.

DO: Eat the food while you're being filmed. I can't guarantee that this tactic will help you, but I just get sad any time I see a gorgeous spread of munchies that hasn't been touched. The foodie in me was overjoyed when Demi, Hannah B, and Hannah G ditched scavenging through a jungle for food and opted for takeout burgers.

If you do follow all of these tips and still don't win the show, don't fret! With your newfound fame and fortune, you're guaranteed to become a #socialinfluencer.. If you're super lucky, Chris Harrison will extend you the invitation to join the *Bachelor in Paradise* cast. In the end, everyone's a winner!

Preview: Albany Symphony Orchestra on campus

by Nick Lyon '22
A&E Contributor

This Friday, Feb. 8, the Albany Symphony Orchestra will be performing with Orion Weiss, an American classical pianist, in Wellin Hall. The event is hosted by Hamilton College Performing Arts and will begin at 7:30 PM.

The performance will include the world premiere of Annika Socolofsky's "Gaze," Frédéric Chopin's "Piano Concerto No. 2" (featuring the aforementioned Orion Weiss on piano,) and Robert Schumann's "Symphony No. 2."

The Albany Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1930 by Professor John F. Carabella and was originally called the People's Orchestra of Albany. It is unknown why the Italian-born conductor decided to found this musical group in the midst of the Great Depression, but the Orchestra has provided courage, comfort, and hope in bleak and trying times.

The program has been led by a number of talented conductors, led first by Carabella himself, and is now under the talented David Alan Miller who has been conducting the Orchestra since 1992.

Miller has upheld Carabella's original vision to provide a light to the community through outreach and educational programming. He also maintains the orchestra's tradition of musical excellence by way of exploring new music and pioneering repertoire and recording initiatives. These contribute to the Albany Symphony's reputation as a groundbreaking and innovative orchestra. The Orchestra has continued this tradition through the presentation of several world premiere performances of commissioned works by composers such as Stephen Dankner, Hamilton College's own Michael Woods, Bun Ching Lam, Carolyn Yarnell, and Michael Torke.

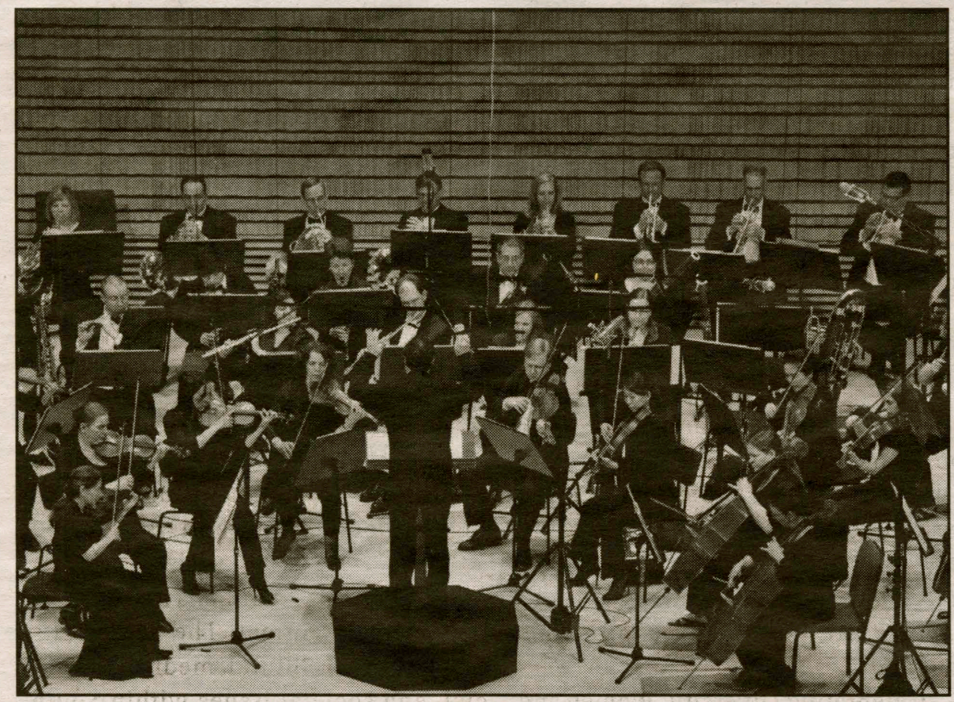


PHOTO COURTESY OF ALBANY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Albany Symphony Orchestra will perform in Wellin Hall on Feb. 8.

The Orchestra is also known for featuring prominent and up-and-coming soloist companion performers like cellist Yo-Yo Ma, bassist Edgar Meyer, violinist Yura Lee, baritone Nathan Myers, violinist Colin Jacobsen, pianist Joel Fan, violinist Jonathan Gandelsman, clarinetist Susan Martula, pianist Findlay Cockrell, percussionist Colin Currie, flutist Paolo Bortolussi, pianist Yefim Bronfman, violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, and pianist Frederic Lacroix. According to their website, "The Albany Symphony celebrates our living musical heritage through its adventurous programming, commissioning and recording of new work, and broad community engagement beyond the concert hall."

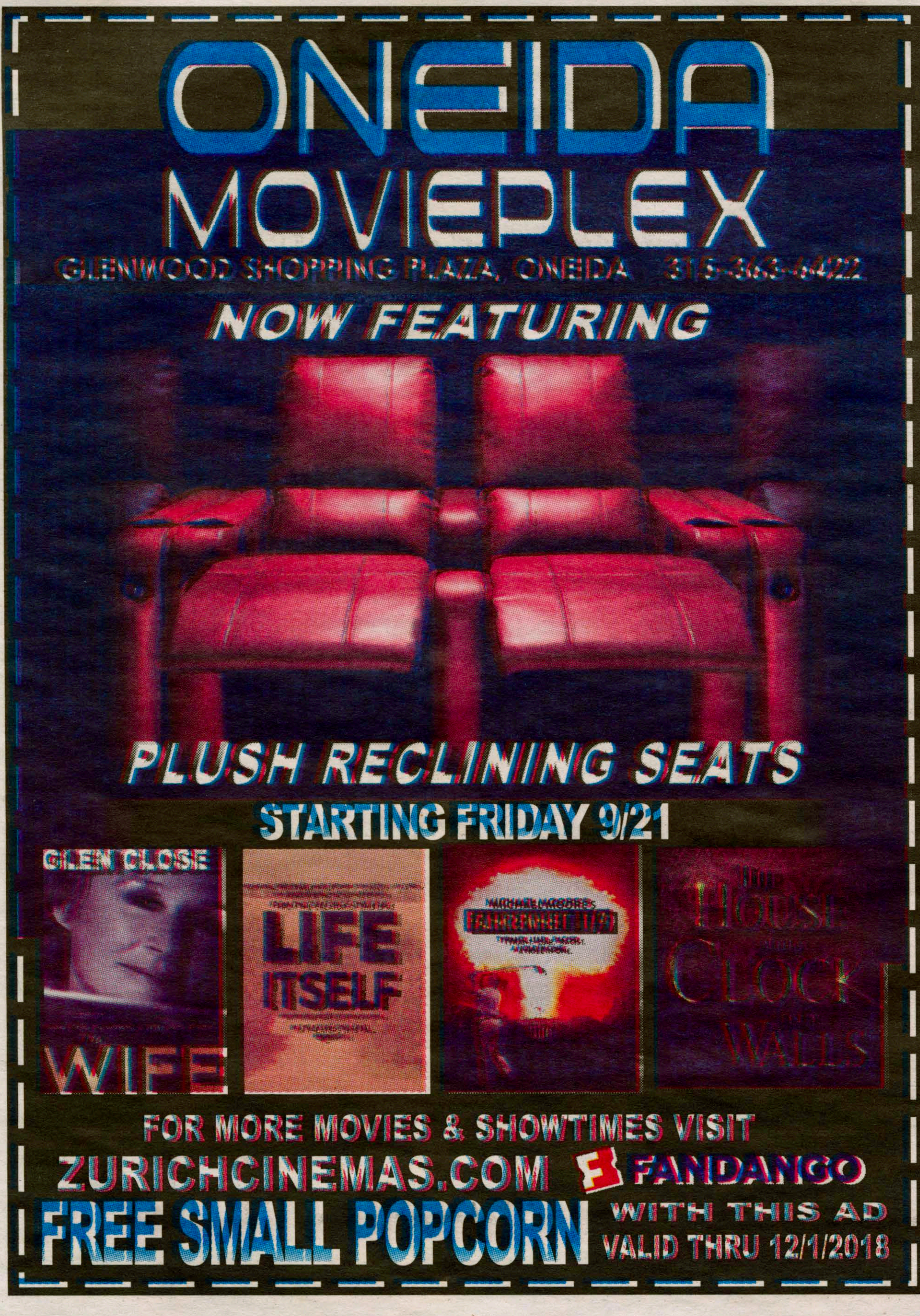
The Orchestra's reputation has been growing for some time, but it has made especially notable strides in the past decade. In 2011, the Albany Symphony was selected to perform in the inaugural season of "Spring for Music." This festival celebrates "innovative programming by American orchestras" at Carnegie Hall.

In 2013, the Orchestra received their second invitation to perform at the festival, and became the only group to be invited for a second year. The Orchestra has also received a number of reputable awards, including a Grammy for Best Classical Instrumental Solo for their performance in John Corigliano's "Conjurer" in 2014.

The Orchestra has received a number of awards from The American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) in the category of Adventurous Programming. They have 26 awards, more than any other orchestra to date. They have also received the John S. Edwards Award for Strongest Commitment to New American Music, earning the title in 2013 and 2014.

Orion Weiss, the companion pianist to the Albany Symphony Orchestra, is a hot up-and-coming soloist who is highly sought after compared to his contemporaries. He trained at the Juilliard School under the tutelage of Grammy-winning pianist Emanuel Ax. Weiss has performed with the Chicago Symphony, Boston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the New York Philharmonic.

Tickets to their Albany Symphony Orchestra's Wellin Hall performance are \$20 for adults, \$15 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students. For more information, call the box office at (315) 859-4331 or visit www.hamilton.edu/performingarts.



Movie-watching at the Oneida Movieplex has just been taken to a whole new level of comfort and relaxation. The Oneida Movieplex is thrilled to announce the installation of luxury plush, fully reclining chairs that provide audiences with a first-class movie watching experience. Moviegoers can lean back and relax as they enjoy a premium recliner that features a powered push button recline mechanism and superior leg room for extra comfort. All nine auditoriums in the complex now boast reclining chairs.

In addition to the plush recliners, the Oneida Movieplex is also offering $5 movie tickets for all showtimes before noon, $5 tickets all day Tuesday and $1 small popcorn with each admission on Wednesdays. Kick back in the new recliners and take advantage of the ultimate movie viewing experience and wide selection of films that the Oneida Movieplex offers. Upcoming movies include Fahrenheit 11/9, The Wife, The House With a Clock in Its Walls, Life Itself, Night School, Small Foot, A Star is Born, Venom, Goosebumps, Halloween, The Nutcracker and the Four Realms, Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald, Ralph Breaks the Internet, Mary Poppins Returns and Aquaman.

With all the fabulous movies being released we hope that everyone will come out and experience the thrills and escapism that only movies can offer.

BECAUSE HAMILTON [*IS GRATEFUL*]

FEBRUARY 11 MARKS THE DAY THAT YOU STOP PAYING FOR YOUR HAMILTON EDUCATION.

Tuition, room and board fees provide **62%** of the cost of a Hamilton education. The difference — a full 38% — is made up by gifts from alumni, parents, and friends, and spending from the endowment. So we like to mark this day as, symbolically, the point when that **38%** kicks in.

- Hamilton is one of fewer than four dozen U.S. colleges that make admission decisions without considering an applicant's ability to pay and then meet accepted students' full demonstrated need.
- More than half of Hamilton students receive College-funded scholarships as part of their financial aid package.
- All students receive a "hidden scholarship" of about $8,500 each year that supplements the cost of their Hamilton education, whether or not they receive financial aid.

Right now, with the *Because Hamilton* campaign, we are raising funds that will allow us to continue offering and growing financial aid and scholarship programs for future generations of Hamilton students.

Today we say thank you to those who have given to Hamilton.
Thank you to the faculty for your guidance and dedication.
And thank you to our students for inspiring us with your hard work, promise, and commitment.

Because Hamilton [ ]

Interview with women's hockey goaltender Gab Venne '22

by Julia Rowland '21
Contributing Writer

Hamilton women's hockey (12-6-2 overall, 6-4-2 NESCAC), good for third in the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC), had an undefeated weekend thanks in part to Gab Venne '22, a first-year goaltender from Greely, O.N. After Venne's two NESCAC wins against Bowdoin College (3-16-1 overall, 2-10 NESCAC) at home in the Sage Ice Rink, she is now 4-1-1 in her career between the pipes at Hamilton. *The Spectator* had the privilege of speaking with Venne and talking about the team and season.

Before the Weekend

Spectator: How has your first-year campaign been thus far?

Venne: My [first] season has been going pretty well, I had a rough start because I had mono and I was coming back from hip surgery so I played my first game at the start of January. I hadn't played in nine months so that was quite the experience. And I was able to get my first victory and my first shutout in the same weekend so I was very happy and everything has been going pretty well since then.

S: When I say "Hamilton women's hockey" what is the first thing that pops into your head?

V: The first thing that pops into my head when you say 'Hamilton women's hockey' is a team sport; it's all about teamwork. Actually… hockey? Ice. Ice is my answer.

S: Who is the funniest member of your team and why?

V: That is a very tough question to answer… Well, I could name you one funny person per [class year] if that helps? So as for the first years, I would say Mya [Berretta '22] is a very, very funny person. She started this trend where she wears game day socks and she has a different pair for every game day. Sophomore class, I would have to say is Bobo [Madie Baloga '21]. I am roommates with her on away trips and I really have just been able to get to know her and her sense of humor and I just really think she has some funny jokes. The funniest junior I have to say is Alayna [Trice '20]. Alayna has this different voice that she uses that is a little more childish and very funny. And the funniest senior I would have to say is Olivia [Hawes '19]… No questions asked.

S: Favorite part of the team?

V: I think my favorite part of being a part of this team is just how close we got over Christmas break and how you can always count on somebody on the team and never be left alone.

S: I'm looking for some insight into a net minder's head. What goes on in there? How do you keep your composure throughout the three periods?

V: Well, first off, even before playing a game, the mental side of being a goalie is very important because there are four of us, as you know, and there's only one of us that plays in a game so if you don't play a game, you have to have a tough exterior. [You have to] keep on pushing yourself in practice and never give up and cover everything and act like practice is a game. [From] there, during the game, you just have to give it your all. It's all or nothing… If things go wrong I will try and talk to my team and hype them up.

S: Do you have any game day or just regular superstitions? If so, where did they come from?

V: Personally, I don't really have that many superstitions. One thing is that I will always tie my left skate before my right skate, but I'm just not a superstitious person. Honestly it's all about having fun and enjoying what you're doing.

S: The NESCAC is one of the most competitive conferences in all of Division III, how have you handled the level of competition thus far? How has the team been stacking up against other league foes?

V: That's a tough question... I feel like the NESCAC is a goalie-based game just because any game can go any way and it all depends on who the goalie is. You never know what to expect in the NESCAC games we just have to really make sure we give our all and everyone has to be ready at all times.

After the Weekend

On the ice last weekend, The Continentals won both games. Venne helped with the 2-0 win against Bowdoin on Friday, Feb. 1, and earned her second career shutout. She had another solid showing on Saturday, Feb. 2, making 26 saves including a couple of crucial ones down the stretch to help earn the team win.

S: Friday night you were locked in, making 33 saves–a career high–and posting a shutout in the NESCAC victory. Was there any specific preparation or people in the stands that pushed you to have the performance that you did?

V: I didn't do anything specific, but I feel like I tend to do better if I just have fun out there. Mostly, giving it my all!

S: With two crucial NESCAC wins this weekend, what is next for the team? What can we expect from you and the team as we get closer to the postseason

V: Moving forward, with our team being third in the [NESCAC] standings right now, we just want to stay up there and be able to go into every game with as much energy as we had this weekend to try and have a home playoff game.

The Hamilton women's hockey team's next games are Friday, Feb. 8 at 7:00 PM and Saturday, Feb. 9. Both games are at home in the Russell Sage Ice Rink against Amherst College (9-9-2 overall, 5-5-2 NESCAC). With two wins against Amherst, Hamilton would tie for first place in the NESCAC.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Gab Venne '22 has an exemplary save percentage of 0.942 and a goals against average of 1.32, both of which lead the team.

Men's basketball ranked #8 nationally

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Peter Hoffmann '19 was named the NESCAC Men's Basketball Player of the Week for the week of Monday, Feb. 4.

After their winning weekend, Hamilton men's basketball (19-2 overall, 5-2 NESCAC) has regained their spot in the top ten Division III basketball teams in the nation, rising from #11 to #8 in the most recent poll from *D3hoops.com*.

On Friday, Feb. 1, the Continentals beat NESCAC rival Bates College with a decisive 92-76 victory, improving their NESCAC record to 4-2. On Saturday, Feb. 2 the team squeaked out a 87-83 win against another conference rival against Tufts University in Hamilton's Senior Day game.

The Continentals are now tied for third place in the NESCAC with Amherst (18-3 overall, 5-2 NESCAC,) behind Middlebury (17-5 overall, 6-2 NESCAC) and Williams (19-3 overall, 6-2 NESCAC) in first place. However, Hamilton has the best overall record in the NESCAC.

Hamilton will play their last home game on Tuesday, Feb. 12 against Amherst College in the Margaret Bundy Scott Field House at 6:00 PM. The game is a makeup game from Jan. 19, which was cancelled due to weather. All three of these teams are either tied with or above Hamilton in NESCAC rankings. Next week will determine the playoff seeding for the playoffs.

Men's squash ends season with high hopes for young talent

by Brent Schoeller '21
Contributing Writer

The men's squash team played in the NESCAC Championship last weekend at the Bostwick Family Squash Center in Middlebury, VT, where they played three matches against Bowdoin College, Wesleyan University, and Connecticut College. Unfortunately, the team dropped all three matches to fall to 3-12 for the year. It is, however, a young team with potential.

The tournament provided the young team with experience. Many players have shown improvement throughout the year, an encouraging sign for next season's squad.

The first match of the weekend for the Continentals was against the Bowdoin Polar Bears.

Bowdoin was the sixth-seeded team in the tournament, and the #23 team nationally, while Hamilton was seeded at #11 for the tournament, #34 nationally. The team dropped the match 0-9, with none of the Continentals winning their games. This was the first time all season that men's squash had a chance to challenge the Bowdoin team. With this match the team dropped to 3-9 on the season.

Callum Sondhi '20 had some close matches in the second game, dropping the game with a score of 9-11. Rufus Somerby '22, Tristan Chaix '20, and Oliver Constable '22 all played close matches but ended with the same results.The team looks to improve upon their performance in the next match against Wesleyan.

In the consolation bracket, the first matchup was against Wesleyan College, where the Continentals dropped the match 1-8. Still, there were impressive performances for the team against a good Wesleyan team. First-year Somerby was able to come away from the match with a victory, winning 13-11, 11-8, and 11-9. Atticus Jones '19 also played well in his match, winning the third game of his match 11-8 before losing the fourth game to drop the match. Constable also played well, coming away with a game and losing a hard fought first game with a score of 10-12. The Continentals dropped this match to put them against the Connecticut College.

The Camels are the #27-ranked team in the nation, and the Continentals dropped the match 7-2. For the most part, though, the team played well and only lost by a narrow margin.

The two wins came from Sondhi and Somerby and showcased to the team's young talent. Somerby won for the sixth time this year — he ends the season leading the team in wins.

Chaix played well against his opponent, winning the first two games before dropping the next three.

Men's squash season is over following the NESCAC Championship losses. However, women's squash (8-4) takes on Connecticut College away in Hartford, CT, at Trinity College's Kellner Squash Center in the first round of the NESCAC Championships on Friday, Feb. 8 at 6:00 PM.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Rufus Somerby '22 leads the men's squash team in wins, with six wins on the season including two wins this week.

Men's and women's track off to the races

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of time to hit their qualifying marks.

The women's team has used the first four meets of the season to prove that they are a regional contender, finishing in the top three at three of the first four meets of the season.

Guided by captain Cat Berry '19, the women's sprint team has achieved a number of individual wins and personal records to start the season. Berry has yet to lose a race that she has entered this season and is coming off a facility record of 25.85 seconds in the 200-meter dash and new personal best of 59.2 seconds in the 400-meter dash.

"It's nice to hit the times I want to hit," Berry said, "but it's also so fun watching the team do well. We have so many talented sprinters this year. McKela [Kanu '22] scored in the 60-meter dash as a first-year and Diamond [Jackson '21] is usually hitting top-ten marks for us too. Kyandreia [Jones '19] broke her own school record in the 60-meter hurdles in the first race of the year. Our relays are running really well. We have talent across the board."

Berry has already hit her markers for Atlantic Regionals and has her sights set on a trip to Division III Nationals.

> "We have a lot of talent across a lot of races so hopefully we can send a good number of people to regionals this year. I'm excited to see what we can put together as a team."
> -Colin Horgan '19

For the distance team, Grace Heller '19 and Mary Lundin '19 pace the squad. Lundin captured first place in the 500-meter dash last weekend, setting a school record along the way. Heller regularly places first in the 5,000-meter and 3,000-meter, and has already qualified for Atlantic Regionals in both events. Captain Anaidys Uribe '19 sees even more potential for the team despite a strong start.

"This season has really been a breakout season for the women's team," she says. "We've placed 1st, 3rd, and 2nd respectively in the past 3 meets of the season. We hope to get the majority of our team out for regionals in Ithaca, and based on the way everyone is running, I see so no reason why we can't send a strong squad to the meet."

In the field events, the women have a number of strong competitors scoring points. Leigh Gelotte '19 placed fourth in the high jump at last week's meet and Lindsey Royce '22 placed eighth in the triple jump. Emily Steates '19 notes how the team has been "working really hard in practice. We feel like we're trending in the right direction as a group and are looking forward to these last three meets before Regionals to hit some good marks."

Indeed the Continentals have a favorable schedule lined up to finish out their season, all of which are away races. Next weekend they race nearby at Colgate University, a fast track, and finish out the season on the historic banked track at Boston University with a stop at the Division I Cornell University in between.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Lucas Wright '21 broke the Utica College facility record in the 800-meter run and outpaced several Division I athletes.

February 7, 2019

Spectator Sports

Men's and women's track lock in spots at Atlantic Regionals

by Jake Bolster '19
Staff Writer

Hamilton College's men's and women's track teams are off to a strong start to their 2019 indoor season. With a mix of seasoned veterans and talented underclassmen, both squads have posted competitive showings at each of the four meets this season.

Men's captain Ryan Sedwick '19 paces a thinly manned but talented sprint group, competing in the 60-meter dash and 200-meter sprint every meet. When asked about the group's potential, Sedwick noted, "We're a smaller team this year, but we're still a close-knit group. Guys are pushing each other every day in practice and the results show. Despite our low numbers, we're still having guys place in the top fifteen, ten, or even top five at these big meets where there are forty or sixty people in an event. Even if we don't place, people are hitting big [personal records], like Sam [Pomerantz '20] did last weekend."

The top-five finishing sprinter mentioned by Sedwick is Will Richardson '21, who placed fourth in the 400-meter dash at last week's Utica College Blue and Orange Invitational. Richardson's time of 51.5 seconds ranks in the top ten in program history and is half of a second away from qualifying for Atlantic Regionals in March. Richardson leads off the Men's 4x400 relay — which also includes Hugo Frost '22, Jake Bolster '19, and Lucas Wright '21 — that is looking to make a return to Atlantic Regionals after setting a program record last season.

The men's middle distance and distance squad has been as dangerous as their sprinting counterparts, boasting a deep and talented roster. Leading the way for the men's distance runners is Wright, who broke the Utica facility record in the 800-meter last week with a time of 1:55.93. The time also qualifies him for Atlantic Regionals.

Bryce Murdick '20 and Aaron Kraus '21 joined Wright on the podium last weekend, taking first in the 5000-meter and fifth in the 500-meter, respectively.

When asked to comment on the strong showing from the distance men, captain Colin Horgan '19 said, "We have a lot of talent across a lot of races so hopefully we can send a good number of people to regionals this year. I'm excited to see what we can put together as a team."

In the field events, record holder Ty Kunzman '21 continues his charge towards Nationals in the weight throw. While he has yet to hit the marks he wants in a meet, Kunzman notes that he's "been hitting throws in practice, so I know I can do it. Now it's just about executing in a meet." With three meets left before Atlantic Regionals, the men have plenty

*see **Track**, page 15*

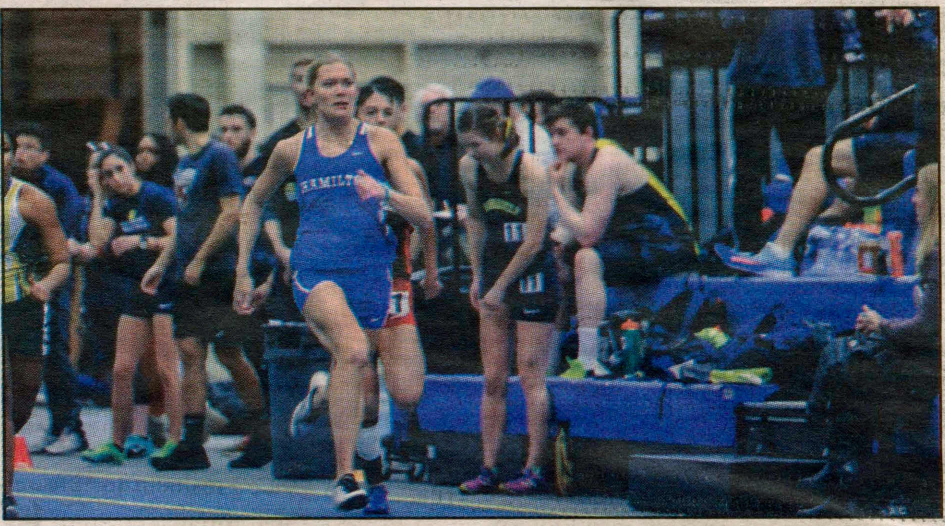

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Captain Cat Berry '19 has placed first in each of her runs so far this season and has qualified for Atlantic Regionals.

Men's and women's swim and dive prepare for NESCAC Championships

by Jo Dine '22
Contributing Writer

The Hamilton men's and women's swim and dive teams have both completed their final meets of the regular season, leaving less than two weeks to prepare for the upcoming NESCAC Championships.

The women's team has performed exceptionally well in Bristol Pool this season, winning all three home dual meets against local opponents Utica College, SUNY New Paltz, and Union College. They also came in first place out of the ten teams who participated in the Hamilton Invitational Meet earlier in the season.

In their decisive Senior Day win over Union College on Wednesday, Jan. 23, Sadie Logan '20 won both the 50-yard freestyle (25.48 seconds) and the 100-yard backstroke (1:00.12). Logan was part of the first-place 200-yard medley relay, along with Julia Martin '21, Caroline Paulson '21, and Karly Leiman '22, which had a time of 1:54.15. Leiman was also a member of the winning 200-yard freestyle relay team, joined by fellow first-years Phoebe Parker '22, Meredith Gioia '22 and Kenzie Burton '22 (1:45.35). Other successful finishes came from Lucy Hamann '22, who won both the 200- and 500-yard freestyle events, and Madeleine Lepesant '19, who came in second in the 100-yard butterfly (1:01.66).

In their four NESCAC away meets, the women's team has struggled a bit more. Most recently, the team traveled to Middlebury College on Saturday, Jan. 26 and finished behind both the host team and nationally-ranked #6 Williams College in the meet.

There were still many standout individual performances from the Continentals at Middlebury. Martin won first place in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:10.25) and Logan came in second place in the 100-yard backstroke (1:01.46). Burton came in fourth overall in the 100-yard butterfly (1:00.52). Sarah Pickup '19 also finished fourth in the 3-meter diving event with 194.19 points.

The men's team is 1-3 in NESCAC meets after a 158-113 win at Wesleyan University on Saturday, Jan. 5, in which Hamilton swimmers won first place in ten separate events.

Some of the most impressive performances came from first-years on the team. Nick Wilkins '22 finished first in three events: the 200-yard freestyle (1:50.11), the 50-yard breaststroke (28.27), and the 100-yard individual medley (55.99).

Sandro Mariani '22 and Jack Sullivan '22 finished first and second respectively in the 25-yard freestyle with times of 10.78 and 10.89 seconds. Mariani and Sullivan were also both part of a 100-yard freestyle relay team with veteran swimmers Jordan Allen '19 and Jesse Bennett '19. The relay team had a winning time of 42.53 seconds. Allen added yet another win for Hamilton in the 25-yard backstroke (12.99).

The men's team has since finished with overall losing scores in their three other NESCAC meets against Colby College, Middlebury College and #19 Williams College. At the meet in Middlebury, VT, Wilkins took first place in both the 100-yard breaststroke (58.59) and the 100-yard individual medley (54.21). Bennett finished fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:02.73) and the 200-yard freestyle relay team of Allen, Mariani, Alexander Clark '22 and Ben Cornaglia '19 came in third place (1:32.66).

On Saturday, Feb. 2, both the men's and women's teams were defeated by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in their last regular season weekend of contests. Once again, the Continentals put up a tough fight. For the women's team, Lepesant won the 200-yard butterfly (2:15.87), followed closely by teammate Burton (2:17.64). Hamann won the 100-yard butterfly (1:00.67) with Leiman coming in second (1:01.76). Patricia Shiebler '21 came in first in the 1000-yard freestyle (11:22.33).

On the men's team, Bennett finished first in the 1000-yard freestyle (10:27.03) and Ben Kaplan '21 won the 200-yard butterfly (2:07.94). Clark and Wilkins both came in second in the 100-yard butterfly (55.71) and 200-yard individual medley (2:02.23) respectively.

After a long and grueling season of competition, the Continentals are looking to capitalize on their many strong individual talents to compete at the NESCAC Championships. The final meet of the season begins on Thursday, Feb. 14 when the women's team heads to Wesleyan College, while the men's team returns to Vermont to face Middlebury College.

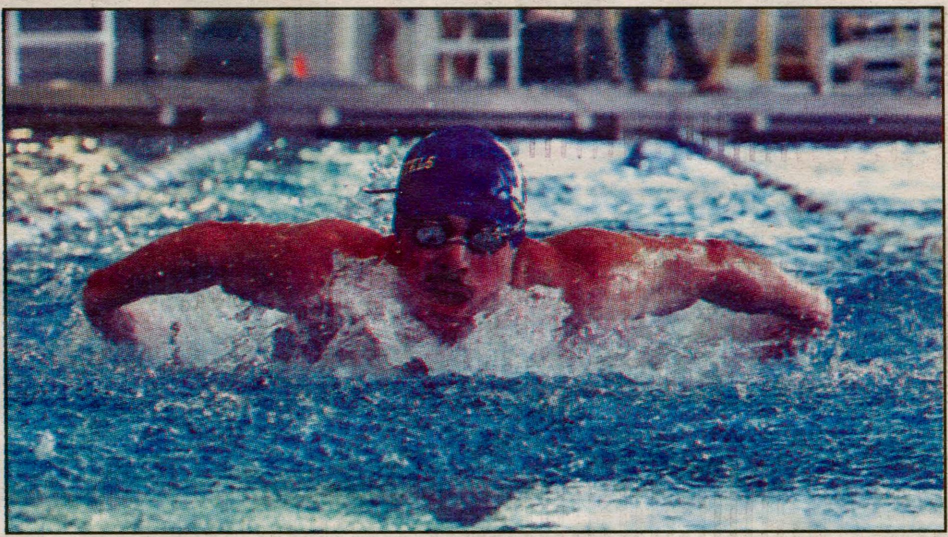

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Jesse Bennett '19 took first place in the 1000-yard freestyle at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for the men's team.